

Message Text

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73

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 EB-07 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2231

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PASS OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL (MC)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789

1. ALL IMPORTS OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO ARGENTINA MUST HAVE THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL, GRANTED BY THE REGISTRO NACIONAL DE ARMAS (RENAR - NATIONAL FIREARMS BUREAU), WHICH IS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, PRIOR TO SHIPMENT FROM THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

2. DECREE NO. 395, PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN (BOLETIN OFICIAL) OF MARCH 3, 1975 (CONTAINING THE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS FOR LAW NO. 20,429 OF MAY 1973, PUBLISHED IN BOLETIN OFICIAL ON JULY 5, 1973), SETS FORTH CURRENT GOVERNMENT'S REGULATIONS GOVERNING IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

3. IMPORT LICENSES ARE ISSUED EXCLUSIVELY BY RENAR AND ONLY TO THOSE ARGENTINE IMPORTERS WHO ARE REGISTERED WITH THEM AND WHO FULFILL THE MANY REQUIREMENTS DEMANDED BY RENAR IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS AN AUTHORIZED IMPORTER. THE ARGENTINE IMPORTER MUST PRESENT THE APPLICATION FOR IMPORT PERMIT OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION TO RENAR WITH DETAILS

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CONCERNING IDENTITY OF THE EXPORTING FOREIGN FIRM, AS WELL AS

DESTINATION, QUANTITY, TYPE, CALIBER, SERIAL NUMBER, ETC. OF THE FIREARMS TO BE IMPORTED INTO ARGENTINA. ONCE THE AUTHORIZATION IS GRANTED, RENAR WILL SUPPLY THE IMPORTER WITH THREE COPIES OF THE IMPORT PERMIT: ONE FOR ARGENTINE CUSTOMS BUREAU, ONE FOR THE IMPORTER AND ONE TO BE SENT TO THE EXPORTING COMPANY FOR OBTENTION OF VISA FROM ARGENTINE CONSULATE IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF SHIPMENT. THE U.S. EXPORTER COULD BE ASKED BY MC TO PRESENT THIS DOCUMENT BEFORE U.S. AUTHORITIES WHICH COULD BE USED BY MC AS PART OF U.S. REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF IMPORTATION. IMPORT LICENSES ARE VALID FOR 180 DAYS.

4. ONCE IMPORT LICENSE HAS BEEN ISSUED AND ALL CUSTOMS REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN FULFILLED, THE GOODS MAY ENTER PORT, WHERE RENAR AUTHORITIES WILL INSPECT SHIPMENT AND STORE IN THEIR OWN WAREHOUSES.

5. LOCAL WHOLESALERS AND RETAILERS ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP A REGISTERED RECORD OF THEIR SALES. REPORTING OF SALES IS MANDATORY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY ARE MADE AND MUST INCLUDE PERSONAL DATA ON PURCHASER. RECORDS ARE INSPECTED PERIODICALLY BY RENAR. RETAILERS ARE ONLY AUTHORIZED TO KEEP A LIMITED NUMBER OF LARGE CALIBER WEAPONS IN STOCK. THE RETAILER'S EXCESS STOCK IS RETAINED BY RENAR IN THEIR WAREHOUSE.

6. INDIVIDUALS MUST OBTAIN LEGAL DOCUMENTATION FROM THE FEDERAL OR PROVINCIAL POLICE TO PURCHASE AND TO POSSESS FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. POLICE AUTHORITIES SUBSEQUENTLY REPORT TO RENAR PURCHASE OR POSSESSION PERMITS ISSUED.

7. COMMENTS: PARADOXICALLY, AT THIS TIME OF UNREST AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE IN ARGENTINA, WHEN A SIGNIFICANT LIST OF GOODS ARE PROHIBITED, ARGENTINE CUSTOMS ALLOWS THE IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. THEY CONTINUE TO ALLOW THEIR IMPORTATION AS LONG AS THE 130 PERCENT F.O.B. AD VALOREM DUTY IS PAID. FYI: THE BRUSSELS TARIFF NOMENCLATURE NUMBERS FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION GO FROM 93.01.00.00 TO 93.07.02.00. AT PRESENT ALL FIREARMS ARE CONSIDERED "WEAPONS OF WAR" EXCEPT FOR FIREARMS OF CALIBERS 22, 32, AND 38, AND SHOTGUNS OF SPECIFIED BARREL LENGTH USED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR HUNTING (EXCLUDING AMMUNITION WITH "MAGNUM" CHARGES.) CONTROL EXERCISED OVER BOTH CATEGORIES OF WEAPONS IS SIMILAR. HILL

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